

the antler soon became warm again and resumed growing, due as Hunter demonstrated to a well-functioning collateral circulation.

Four months later John was confronted with a popliteal aneurysm of great size, for which he applied two ligatures in "Hunter's Canal," instead of just above the aneurysm as in Anel's operation, and two ligatures below the aneurysm. The patient recovered without gangrene due to the collateral circulation around the knee which John had postulated on the basis of his experiments on the deer. Subsequently John limited the operation to ligation in the "adductor canal"—his fourth patient lived fifty more years.

Another study was published as a "Treatise on Venereal Disease," the product of 18 years' investigation, but inaccurate since it was based on the supposition that he had inoculated himself with gonorrhea, whereas actually he had inoculated himself with both syphilis and gonorrhea.

John's practice at this time was extensive but not remunerative. In his waiting room the Duke of Richmond might find himself sitting between some grimy-handed coke heaver and his own haberdasher. John adjusted his fees to the patient's pocketbook. "You are the best judge of your own circumstances, and it is far from my wish to deprive you of the comforts of life." He accepted no pay from clergymen, authors, or artists. He treated workmen first, saying: "You have no time to spare," adding with a scornful glance at the group of fidgeting noblemen: "Most of these can wait, as they have 'vurra' little to do when they go home."

His patients included the Boswell family, George Byron for his club feet, the Duke of Atholl's son, Thomas Gainsborough, Reynolds, and Benjamin Franklin. But not all was to his liking or to his benefit. He had made many enemies by his candor, his brusqueness and his presumptuous criticism of fellow surgeons.

On October 16, 1793, at a board meeting of St. George's Hospital, an insolent remark was made by a fellow board member, which so angered John that while struggling to control his temper he staggered into the adjoining room, fell senseless, and died that afternoon. Necropsy revealed widespread arteriosclerosis, with an aneurysmal dilatation of the ascending aorta, the wall of which was studded with opaque white spots, a picture consistent with the terminal ravages of syphilis. He was denied burial in Westminster Abbey and was interred in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Trafalgar Square.

One paper hailed him as "the first surgeon in the world," another as "the greatest philosophical surgeon and the greatest comparative anatomist which the useful art that he practised had ever known."

On March 28, 1859, 66 years later, a young and ardent admirer of Hunter and an Army surgeon, Francis Trevelyan Buckland, painstakingly undertook the laborious task of identifying his leaden coffin stored at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in a vault containing 3,259 other coffins. (Hunter's coffin was the last but one to be inspected!) Buckland prevailed upon the Government to transfer Hunter's remains to Westminster Abbey to lie beside those of Ben Jonson.

"The Royal College of Surgeons of England has placed this tablet on the grave of Hunter to record admiration of his genius as a gifted interpreter of the Divine power and wisdom at work in the laws of organic life, and its grateful veneration for his services to mankind as the founder of scientific surgery."

Finally, the author records with outraged feeling the disgraceful plagiarisms perpetrated by Everard Home, Hunter's brother-in-law, of many of Hunter's unpublished notes, and his burning of over 30 volumes of John's notes relating to the collections in the Museum. This heinous act was dis-

closed to the Board of Curators of the Museum created by the Royal College of Surgeons by one William Clift, a one-time servant and devoted admirer of John Hunter, who continued as Curator of the Museum for 49 years after Hunter's death. Everard Home escaped punishment, but most of his colleagues viewed him with contempt. He died in his seventy-seventh year, a victim of gout and excessive drinking.

A glaring defect in this fascinating and well-written account of two of England's greatest surgeons and scientists is the absence of a single illustration, not even a reproduction of Sir Joshua Reynolds' masterly portrait of John Hunter, caught in a deep reverie, "when the body loses consciousness of its own existence." When the Swiss theologian, Johann Lavater, saw the portrait he exclaimed: "That man thinks for himself."

This brief review gives a very inadequate concept of the monumental and fascinating information this biography contains of the life, customs, and social conditions contemporary with Hunter's time, both in Scotland and England. The description of a country doctor's experience with "Angina Pectoris" is most valuable. Contemporary medical practices in America are also depicted in instructive manner. The book should be required "relaxation" reading for every medical student on his long and arduous journey to the practice of Medicine.

EMILE HOLMAN, M.D.

* * *

A TEXTBOOK OF OBSTETRICS—Duncan E. Reid, M.D., William Lambert Richardson Professor of Obstetrics, and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Harvard University Medical School; Chief of Staff, Boston Lying-In Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1962. 1087 pages, \$18.50.

When a new, full sized obstetrical textbook enters the stiff competition for general acceptance by teachers, students and practitioners, one always wonders what motivated the author to undertake what must have seemed at times almost a staggering task. Reid has asked himself this question in his preface, and by way of answering it he has cited four purposes his book is intended to fulfill. Firstly he wished to relate advances in our knowledge of birth trauma, congenital malformations, prematurity, and poor reproductive performance in general to the immediate clinical situation. It is suggested that the renewed interest in human reproductive physiology may shortly lead to solutions for these distressing and widespread problems. Secondly, the author aims to promote the highest quality of patient care by presenting the process of human reproduction in the simplest of terms for those engaged primarily in supplying the vast demand for medical services. Thirdly, he set out to describe and emphasize the basic principles of good obstetrical management, with particular reference to currently accepted practices in the Boston Lying-in Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and lastly to relate the process of human reproduction to the general framework of biology and medicine as a whole.

In the main I believe he has succeeded admirably in fulfilling these objectives. The book is beautifully written and it flows along easily, perhaps because statistics, particularly the kind dealing with various series of cases recorded in the literature, have been omitted wherever possible. The author rightly points out that percentages may be of interest in certain settings but tend to lose their significance when one faces the treatment of an individual patient. There is less than the usual didactic emphasis on the mechanistic aspects of labor and delivery, but these areas have not by any means been slighted. Throughout the volume one finds much of Reid's personal philosophy about obstetric matters, and while one may perhaps not choose to embrace all

his beliefs, the arguments in controversial areas are most lucidly and thoughtfully presented. The author's voice comes alive clearly and forcefully from every page.

Experts in various fields afforded help with some of the chapters. The late Thomas Goethals provided a chapter on breeches, Kurt Benirschke one on multiple pregnancy, Claude Villee a short piece on human genetics. Blood grouping problems and erythroblastosis have been covered by F. H. Allen, Jr. and a superb chapter on the newborn has been done by Harvard pediatricians Paine and Clifford. A short section on psychiatric disease in pregnancy was written by Mandel Cohen.

Comparing this new volume with the latest edition of the perennial favorite, *Williams Obstetrics*, one finds that Reid in somewhat fewer pages has included all the old, familiar chapters, some in more detail, some in less, and has added a couple of extras to lure the new reader. Clearly it is too early to evaluate the place this text will assume in obstetric teaching in the United States. All of us must try it on the firing line and find out how it fits our particular demands. Your reviewer has thoroughly enjoyed those parts of it he has had time to digest fully and intends to get better acquainted with the rest of it as the academic year progresses. He urges you to read Reid for yourself.

C. E. McLENNAN, M.D.

* * *

NATURE OF PSYCHOTHERAPY, THE—A Critique of the Psychotherapeutic Transaction—Walter Bromberg, B.S., M.D., Training Consultant, Department of Mental Hygiene, State of California. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 331 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1962. 108 pages, \$4.50.

This book presents to the reader an interesting and stimulating group of opinions and insights concerning the essential nature of the psychotherapeutic transaction independent of its content or the specific theoretical orientation of the therapist. Although somewhat verbose and circuitous at times, it presents new dimensions for thinking about the psychotherapeutic process. This book reflects what appears to be the major current trend among psychotherapists: the focus on the interaction and the interactional situation rather than on what is being spoken about.

Using a combination of elements of theoretical sociological analysis, symbolic logic, and epistemology, the author examines in turn: (1) The basic presuppositions underlying dynamic psychotherapy; (2) The psychological need to explain as exists in the psychotherapist; (3) The validity of the presuppositions which underlie the psychological postulates involved in psychotherapeutic theory; (4) What the author calls extra-technical elements, the "art of psychotherapy"; (5) The therapist's position of wishing to help as a commonality in all therapies and a consistency in the therapist's position in a therapeutic situation; (6) The lack of sufficient knowledge of patient-premises underlying his part of the therapeutic interactions; and, (7) The use of the, what the author calls, "as if" model that the patient uses to view the therapist's intervention. The patient regards the therapist's explanations as if they were true and, apparently, is capable of benefiting from this micromodel of his problems independently of whatever theoretical framework within which this explanation falls. This attempt to strip the therapeutic process of its content and theoretical orientation of the therapist, although certainly not new (Wilhelm Reich and Otto Rank, among others, were struggling with the interactional problem in the early 1920's) nevertheless helps the reader focus on an aspect of therapy which, perhaps, too often is not seen.

One might, however, legitimately ask whether a therapeutic interaction can be examined by any of its members. Parsons has pointed out the importance of perspective in

viewing an interactional system. It is obvious that no one member of the therapeutic dyad is less determined by interactional influences than the other one. In a sense, therefore, the author may not be in a position to be a competent observer of a therapeutic interaction. The necessity for what Parsons calls "the significant third person" is demonstrated in this book in that, perhaps, its most valid observations concerned the premises of the therapist. The author admits that he has had little contact with the patient's part of the situation. The author's use of impersonal "tools" such as the logical examination of the material, was undoubtedly an attempt to get to this third person, more objective, vantage point. One wonders, however, whether his real insights came to him as a therapist as a member of the dyad and were then rationalized using whatever logical or sociological theory analysis tools that seemed to fit.

Although far from a definitive work in the very exciting area of the exploration of the psychotherapeutic process, the book brings to the reader some interesting new thoughts and comments concerning its essential nature. It is hoped that the author, or some of his coworkers, will use some of the ideas suggested by this book as impetus for exploring the psychotherapeutic process in a more observational and objective way. If this book does nothing but stimulate some methodological pursuit of these kinds of problems, it will certainly serve a valuable purpose.

ARNOLD J. MANDELL, M.D.

* * *

STRABISMUS—Symposium of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology—Raynold N. Berke, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.; Harold Whaley Brown, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School, New York, N. Y. David G. Cogan, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.; John Woodworth Henderson, M.D., Ph.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Professor of Ophthalmology, The University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Arthur Jampolsky, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Director, Eye Research Institute, Presbyterian Medical Center, San Francisco, Calif.; and Marshall M. Parks, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Attending Ophthalmologist, Children's Hospital, Washington, D. C. Edited by George M. Haik, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Professor of Ophthalmology and Head of the Department, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1962. 369 pages, illustrated, \$18.00.

This book on strabismus contains the material presented at a meeting of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology. The participants were Doctors Raynold N. Berke, Harold W. Brown, David G. Cogan, John Woodworth Henderson, Arthur Jampolsky, and Marshall M. Parks. The material was edited by George M. Haik. The book is divided into 14 chapters covering the various phases of strabismus, including chapters on the neuroanatomy of ocular motility and strabismus, the neurology of amblyopia and nystagmus.

The guest speakers are all authorities in their particular fields of strabismus. In place of the usual considerations on a purely anatomic basis, the book includes the most modern concept of the neuroanatomy, physiology and neurology of the extraocular muscles. It is with this concept in mind that the esotropias, exotropias and hyperopias are discussed.

Special consideration is given to the "A" and "V" syndromes that have recently received so much attention. Pleoptics is also discussed, but one regrets that it isn't a clear, concise presentation of this new concept for the treatment of amblyopia.